"Viva Villa" with Wallace Beery Captures the London Press and Public

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THE CASE OF ROTHSCHILD

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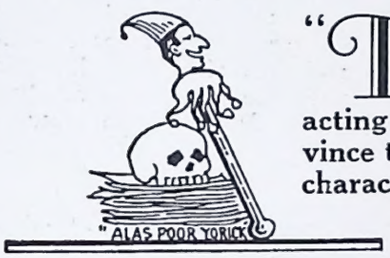


"THE pre-eminent quality in Mr. George Arliss's acting is his ability to convince the spectator that the character he is enacting is a great man, and one who can get his greatness recognized by those around him. There is a certain richness of authority about him that is unquestionable. In this respect he excells any other actor of recent times, with the possible exception of Mansfield. He began showing this power early in his career; we can recall seeing him in an Ibsen play in Toronto many years ago when he was on the stage for barely ten minutes, but easily established himself as the most vital personage in the story. It reached its apex in "Old English", where he had to create the impression of greatness without any of the trappings of public authority and without the glamor of a well-known historic name. It marked him out as the ideal performer for the biographical dramas which seem so pleasing to contemporary taste.

"His performance of the first Baron Rothschild leaves one with a profound feeling of the legitimacy, indeed the moral excellence, of the desire for power when it is based upon the consciousness of exceptional ability to serve the best interests of the race, the nation or mankind. The desire of the great Jew is not for money, it is simply for the only source of power that for centuries has been permitted to him and his race. What would have been the course of history if the Christian world had learned the lesson "love thy neighbor" taught by the Founder of its faith, and had permitted the Jew to serve the state in accordance with his abilities as other citizens do, we cannot tell. For the nations of the Christian world in varying degrees have all fallen short of that ideal, and the price of that falling short has not yet been paid in full. We can however see without much difficulty that the nations which have come nearest to that admonition in their treatment of the Jew have at the same time come nearest to the highest standard of civilization in any intelligible sense of that word."

UNITED ARTISTS - "HOUSE OF ROTHSCHILD" - WARNER BROS.

IT is difficult to find sufficient words of praise with which to extol the merit of this United Artists feature.

It is now playing its third week at Loew's Theatre, Toronto, and daily and nightly the theatre is crowded with people of all creeds, and classes. It has its entertainment values for the masses and the intellectual student of biographical history.

It is indeed a monument to the artistry of George Arliss, and the production department of United Artists.

In all this praise we are inspired to mention the name Warner Bros., for this company is responsible for the original purchase of "The House of Rothschild" for screen purposes and the selection of Arliss for the picture.

Warner Bros. rose to the occasion, as it were, in turning this story over to the United Artists to produce, when Arliss linked up with the latter company. It was a most commendable gesture on the part of Warner Bros.

It is not a general habit to give up material which bears the earmarks of being "winning material". Warner Bros. might have thought of selecting another star for "The House of Rothschild".

George Arliss should be grateful to these Hebrews who renounced box-office profits for their own company in order to continue the service of making George Arliss great.

RAY

RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

MICHAEL SHEA, veteran theatre man who founded Shea's Theatres in Buffalo, passed away and with him passes another showman of the old school of showmanship traditions.

Mr. Shea was born in St. Catharines and was 76 years old. He began his theatre career with a repertoire company about fifty years ago, embarking upon more elaborate theatrical ventures by including vaudeville and motion pictures. He owned important theatres in Buffalo, the Court St. theatre and Buffalo Hippodrome. The Hippodrome, Toronto, was opened in 1914 by Mr. Shea; and his brother, Jerry, managed the theatre.

The life story of Edith Cavell, which several years ago, engaged the fighting propensities of Oscar Hanson, is now to be shown in the theatres of Ontario. Mr. Hanson fought for its release but was unsuccessful, although it was shown in other provinces of Canada.

It appears that Premier G. Howard Ferguson, who was appealed to seven years ago, refused to permit this picture to be shown because we were said to be "at peace with Germany", and the story revealed the execution by the Germans of Edith Cavell, the English war nurse.

Today, with Germany under the Hitler regime, the opposition to the presentation of this film is removed, and it will be released by the Empire Films

It is being presented at the Uptown Theatre, Toronto, the week of May 26th, but with an addition of music and sound effects as well as dialogue.

THERE has been considerable agitation about the play, "Eight Men Speak", in Winnipeg, the Walker Theatre having had its license revoked for permitting the presentation of the play. The press has editorially had much to say in connection with the banning of this play and it looked as if C. P. Walker was going to enter suit for an injunction in respect to the revocation of the Walker Theatre's license.

A recent report states that C. P. Walker decided not to appeal. W. W. Watson, representing the legal firm of Sweatman, Fillmore, Riley and Watson, legal counsel for the Walker Theatre announced that "no effort would be made to obtain an injunction against the cancellation of the licenses". He is further reported as having stated that "such action would not be successful".

The Progressive Arts Club, which was presenting the play, decided to give up all thought of presenting it. There is considerable agitation about the action of the police commissioners in banning a play which it is alleged, they have not seen, nor read. The freedom of speech on the stage is an important issue in this controversy, so state those interested and concerned.

The police were on guard at the theatre, and those who had purchased tickets were informed that there would be no production. The play came in for considerable trouble in Toronto and was also banned. The Act under which the Walker Theatre license was revoked is as follows, Chapter 3, Section 31, Manitoba Amusements Act:

"If at any time the minister ascertains that it is in the public interest that any license under this Act should be suspended or revoked, as to which he shall be the sole judge, or in case an owner is, in the opinion of the Minister, in default in complying with the provisions of this Act, he may suspend or revoke any such license, while said license is so suspended or revoked, the person named in said license shall in all respects be deemed not to be the holder of a license, under this Act, and shall be liable also to all the penalties and punishments provided in this Act."

THE action of Chief Newton in revoking the city license of the Walker Theatre was taken under Section 794 of the Winnipeg Charter which empowers the Chief of Police or the license inspector to revoke or cancel licenses "in any case where he is of the opinion that the licensee is carrying on or conducting the exhibition, show, business, trade, occupation, calling or premises in an improper mannre".

Mayor Webb defended the action of the Hon. D. L. McLeod, Municipal Commissioner in revoking the license of the Walker Theatre to forestall the presentation of the play. Mayor Webb stated that the decision of the Minister to revoke the license followed the refusal of the sponsors of the play, the Progressive Arts Club, to submit a copy of the script to the police, and to allow the police to attend the final rehearsal. Mayor Webb is alleged to have stated, after reading a resume of the play as presented in Toronto recently, that he was convinced it was seditious and a deliberate attempt on the part of the communists to appeal to those who did not understand or appreciate the traditions or laws of this country.

The Mayor was of the opinion that no such play should be permitted to be shown in any place, or anywhere.

"The communists, the Progressive Arts Club, the Workers United League, or whatever name these people want to call themselves, must bear in mind this is Canada, with British laws and traditions," stated Mayor Webb. "They cannot be allowed to defy good government".

(Continued on page 6)

Famous Players Canadian Refused Building Permit Forest Hill Village, Toronto, for Theatre

Observations

By The Editor

ALL theatres, South of Eglington, will be banned in accordance with a by-law passed by the village council, which rejected a permit to build a theatre in Forest Hill. The applicant had purchased the land before applying for a permit to build a theatre. The council decided that a theatre on Spadina Road would create a traffic nuisance.

* * * *

In connection with the refusal to erect a theatre in Forest Hill, Councillor Kennedy stated, "This village is entering on the greatest period of prosperity in its history, building permits for April totaled $260,000, the highest month since August of 1931; and yet the council decided that it would have no Movies, refusing the application to erect a theatre made by the Famous Players Canadian Corp.

* * * *

THE appeal of Harmon C. Merritt of Windsor, against the decision of Mr. Justice Kerwin, convicting him of criminal negligence and sentencing him to a term of eight months in the Ontario Reformatory was dismissed by the Ontario Court of Appeals, according to a judgment handed down by Chief Justice Sir William Mulock recently.

Mr. Merritt's conviction, upon which the appeal was taken, was at his second trial. At the first trial, Mr. Justice Kerwin presided and acquitted him of the charge of manslaughter, in connection with the death of Miss Kay Armstrong, the latter who was killed when Mr. Merritt's car struck a truck. He was convicted of criminal negligence and sentenced to a term of eight months in prison. A new trial was ordered and it was again before Mr. Justice Kerwin. The charge this time was criminal negligence and Mr. Merritt was again convicted and given the same sentence. Mr. Arthur Slaght, K.C., and L. Kert acted for Mr. Merritt and W. B. Common, K.C., for the Crown. The accident occurred August 5th, 1933. Both the counsel for the Crown and the counsel for the accused were criticized for their addresses.

* * * *

THE Toronto district Union of the Women's Christian Temperance Union deplored, "the ever-widening powers that are being taken from our legislative assembly and placed in the hands of party appointees". The meeting was at Willard Hall, Toronto, and was in the form of an annual session. The members passed resolutions urging stricter censorship of vaudeville performances, better surveillance of lending libraries, legislation against all lotteries and an Amendment of the Children's Protection Act to make chaperonage necessary for minors attending theatres. The members further urged that the mayor and board of control reinstate a censor officer or board for summary conviction.

* * * *

RONALD COLMAN is likely to appear in the leading role, in the forthcoming production which the London Films will present, "The Scarlet Pimperel". Alexander Korda will commence production following the completion of "The Private Life of Don Juan". Both these British films will be released by Regal Films in Canada.

THE London press acclaimed Wallace Beery in the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer hit, "Viva Villa". The Daily Film Renter reviewed "Viva Villa" as "a vivid, action-packed drama combining all the elements of sure-fire entertainment. Crammed with incident, rousing patriotism, rough fun, romance and pathos. Entertainment of most rousing order with exceptional appeal".

The Sunday Express called "Viva Villa" "easily the best piece of acting Wallace Beery has done, and the best picture he has ever made".

The Daily Mail expressed its opinion as follows. "As a spectacle it is terrific — as drama it is magnificent".

Apropos of "Viva Villa", the Motion Picture Herald editorially relates a story which has a twenty year ago background, "When we and the movies were young, and Senor Villa was just by way of making himself a screen actor and a general". The editorial reports that an agent of Mutual, which was an Independent producing company, went to El Paso and Juarez, and closed a contract with Villa to fight his battles as far as possible in the daytime so that they could be photographed, "exclusively by the said Mutual Film Corporation". Twenty-five large American dollars, in the coinage of silver, was an inducement in making the contract. Villa was to share in the distribution revenue. The pictures were subsequently shot, but the results were all for Villa and not so much for the box-office. The editorial further states that David Wark Griffith subsequently staged the battles for Villa in Hollywood. This location appears to have at present been the battlefield for the Beery Villa, with results centralized around the box-office and to h—— with wars in Mexico. Warring for the box-office is the only kind of a war your Observer believes in. Good old General Box-Office!

* * * *

THE Protective Association of Music Publishers alleges the illegal use of copyrighted music by independent producers and has filed suits against five Independents, the latter actions are now pending in the courts, and eight additional ones are in preparation of litigation.

Twenty claims have been settled. Mr. Harry Fox, who officiates in the capacity of handling theatre relations for the Music Publishers, states, "It was recently estimated that a large majority of more than 250 Independent features and short subjects in production on the coast and in New York contained music for which no license had been issued by us."

* * * *

METRO-GOLDWN-MAYER will produce Motion Pictures in London, England, leading off with "David Copperfield".

Incidentally on May 16th Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer celebrated their tenth anniversary as "Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer". What a flock of stars Leo has given birth to; and what a dividend-paying trademark.

Provincial Election Date June 19th. Ernie Marks, Official Conservative Candidate

Winnipeg Movie Aspirant Takes Own Life

Sigrum Solvason, a former Winnipeg girl, who worked as a movie extra under the name of Rae Randall, was found dead in her apartment in Los Angeles May 10 from the effects of poison. Police said it apparently was self-administered.

Neighbors said the girl had told them she had been a double for Greta Garbo, screen star.

Police later ascertained she had been separated from her husband, Frederick Hessert, mining engineer. He said she came to Los Angeles from Winnipeg seeking a career in the movies. This desire he added, wrecked their married life, and caused her to kill herself.

Miss Solvason died a dissappointed woman, but to an aged Winnipeg mother she is still the bright-eyed, fair-haired girl who left here several years ago, bound to carve herself a place in Hollywood's shifting hall of fame.

The niche was never carved. Today the girl is in a Los Angeles morgue, and the mother, Mrs. P. Solvason, 659 Wellington Avenue, Winnipeg, lies critically ill.

Although they had not seen her for years, the family here had been kept in touch with her doings by her letters. Her hopes, her aspirations were relayed to them. When a "bit" part came her way, it became big news. The long, heart-breaking intervals between work, she kept bravely to herself.

Following her marriage, her dreams of a picture career persisted, finally, according to her husband, breaking up their home and resulting in her death.

Winnipeg Film Board of Trade Gives Luncheon

The Winnipeg Film Board of Trade tendered a luncheon at the Fort Garry, recently, to N. L. Nathanson, of Toronto, President of Famous Players Canadian Corporation; J. J. Fitzgibbons, of Toronto, director-general of theatres for the same company, and district managers from Western Canada who were conferring with these officials.

The guests were welcomed to Winnipeg and to the luncheon by Percy Taylor, division manager for Columbia Pictures Corporation and President of the Board.

Messrs. Nathanson and Fitzgibbons spoke briefly on the problems confronting the Motion Picture Industry.

Among those attending the luncheon were, from Winnipeg: J. H. Huher, Harry Dahn, Wolfe Cohen, David Brickman, Phillip Sherman, Frank Vaughan, Mark Plotel, T. J. Gould, Isador H. Allen; from Calgary, John Hazza and Kenneth Leach;from Vancouver, Larry Berg and Frank Gow; from Saskatoon, Frank Miley; from Lethbridge, J. H. Shackleford.

Woman Financier of Commonwealth Will Not Get Pictures

Kathleen Euphenia Dunsmuir Humphreys, former London musical comedy actress and later Hollywood, Cal., resident, who advanced over $20,000 to producers and actors to put Victoria, B.C., over as the "Hollywood of Canada", will not get possession of the two first pictures produced in Victoria — "The Crimson Paradise", copies of which are reposing in vaults in New York and London"; and "The Black Robe", which is held in a vault in Vancouver.

As a result of the justice's ruling in Victoria this week "The Crimson Paradise" and "The Black Robe" will go to help satisfy the claims of the common creditors of the Commonwealth Productions, if any theatres can be induced to pay money for them.

John T. Fiddes for Universal Theatres

John T. Fiddes, pioneer theatrical man of Winnipeg, and former entertainer on the vaudeville stage, has been appointed to the position of general manager of the Universal Chain Theatres in Winnipeg, comprising the Lyceum, Starland and College houses, it was recently announced. He will assume the office held by the late E. C. Bostick.

For the past few years, Mr. Fiddes has been manager of the College Theatre. Prior to that time he had been, in turn, actor, musical director, producer, press agent and manager of several amusement enterprises. He is thoroughly acquainted with all angles of the motion picture business.

Mr. Fiddes' appointment was announced from New York, headquarters of Universal Chain Theatres. He is a native of Scotland, but has spent most of his life in Canada.

"The Voice of Action" Still in Action

The Theatre Canadienne Francais in Montreal has replaced its previous equipment and installed a complete Northern Electric Sound System, opening this Saturday with "Only Yesterday".

Other houses to join the chain of Northern Equipped houses are Palace, Arvida, Quebec; Royal, Aurora, Ont.; Brock, Whitby, Ontario; and the Century in Toronto added "Wide Range" to its present "Voice of Action" System.

At the luncheon given in honor of Mary Pickford, His Worship Mayor Stewart referred to Mary as follows, "one whose name is a household word, and has brought fame to the city of her birth, to Canada and the Empire".

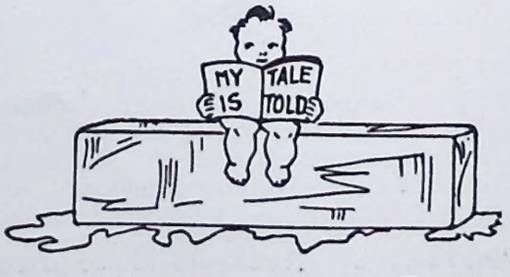
Ray Presents

(Continued from page 4)

Not having seen the play, nor read it, I cannot pass any comment in respect to the cancellation of the license of the Walker Theatre, the latter which is a landmark in Winnipeg, and Mr. Walker one of our most respected showmen, nor can I pass any comment in respect to Ministers, the Chief of Police, the Mayor, concerning their attitude.

If the people elect representatives to make laws, they must abide by the laws which are made by the people they voted into power. If they are not in favour of these representatives they can vote them out of power. If they do not like legislation they can set up public opinion against such legislation in an effort to have it modified, or revoked, or amended.

The people have the power, if they will use their brains, instead of their emotions, if they will agitate constructively. Canada is a land of Reform Movement, and not Revolutions.



Mrs. Joshua Smith (Ray Lewis) Independent Candidate Member of Parliament, in Four-cornered Contest, Bellwoods Riding, Toronto, Provincial Election